

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
FLORENCE DIVISION

Robbie Ritchie, #3037)	C/A No. 4:09-803-TLW-TER
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	REPORT AND RECOMMENATION
vs.)	
)	
Just Care Inc.;)	
Tull Gerrold, owner of privately owned hospital;)	
Mr. Wyatt, director of hospital;)	
Dr. Hardin, Head Doctor;)	
Dr. Darby;)	
)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	
)	

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

The Plaintiff, Robbie Ritchie (“Plaintiff”), filed this action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983¹ on March 31, 2009. Plaintiff alleges that his constitutional rights were violated by Defendants². Defendants filed a motion for summary judgment on December 4, 2009. Because Plaintiff is proceeding pro se, the court issued an order on or about December 9, 2009, pursuant to Roseboro v. Garrison, 528 F.2d 309 (4th Cir. 1975), advising that a failure to respond to the Defendants’ motion for summary judgment with additional evidence or counter affidavits could result in the dismissal of his complaint. A response was due pursuant to the Roseboro Order on or before January

¹All pretrial proceedings in this case were referred to the undersigned pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A) and (B) and Local Rule 73.02(B)(2)(d), DSC. Because this is a dispositive motion, the report and recommendation is entered for review by the District Judge.

² Defendants Columbia Care Center and All Nurses on First Shift were dismissed as party defendants by Order filed September 30, 2009. (See Doc. #36).

12, 2009. Plaintiff has not filed a response.³

A. RULE 41(B) DISMISSAL

A complaint may be dismissed pursuant to Rule 41 (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for failure to prosecute and/or failure to comply with orders of the court. Ballard v. Carlson, 882 F.2d 93 (4th Cir. 1989), cert. denied 493 U.S. 1084 (1990) and Chandler Leasing Corp. v. Lopez, 669 F.2d 919 (4th Cir. 1982). In considering whether to dismiss an action pursuant to Rule 41(b), the court is required to consider four factors:

- (1) the degree of Plaintiff's responsibility in failing to respond;
- (2) the amount of prejudice to the Defendant;
- (3) the history of the Plaintiff in proceeding in a dilatory manner; and,
- (4) the existence of less drastic sanctions other than dismissal.

Davis v. Williams, 588 F.2d 69 (4th Cir. 1978).

In the present case, the Plaintiff is proceeding pro se so he is entirely responsible for his actions. It is solely through Plaintiff's neglect, and not that of an attorney, that no responses have been filed. Plaintiff has not responded to Defendants' motion for summary judgment, or the court's Orders requiring him to respond. The undersigned concludes the Plaintiff has abandoned his lawsuit as to these Defendants. No other reasonable sanctions are available. Accordingly, it is recommended that this action be dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 41(b).

³ Plaintiff has not filed a notice of change of address with the court.

II. CONCLUSION

As set out above, a review of the record indicates that the Plaintiff's complaint should be dismissed for failure to prosecute. It is, therefore,

RECOMMENDED that Plaintiff's complaint be dismissed for failure to prosecute pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 41(b) with prejudice.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Thomas E. Rogers, III
Thomas E. Rogers, III
United States Magistrate Judge

February 22, 2010
Florence, South Carolina

The parties' attention is directed to the important information on the attached notice.